

REMARKS

The Examiner has objected to the claims on file, requiring that they be restricted to one of the following two groups:

Group I, claims 1-9, drawn to a bone implant, and

Group II, claims 19-25, drawn to a template means for forming an implant.

In reply, Applicant elects the invention of Group I, claims 1-9. Claims 19-25 have been canceled without prejudice to applicants' right to file a divisional application for the subject matter of those claims.

Applicant has added new claims 26-32 directed to the implantation of the implant into a socket prepared using template means. As noted in the action, such method claims will be initially withdrawn but will be rejoined once the product claims from which they depend are allowed.

Applicant also takes this opportunity to amend claims 1, 2, and 5 to place them in preferred form. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate subject matter from claim 5. No new subject matter has been added by these amendments, and therefore these amendments should be entered.

The corresponding European patent application has now matured to European Patent No. 1 587 458 B1, and the corresponding Canadian patent application serial no. 2,416,348 has also been allowed. These actions support the patentability of the claims. The references cited during the prosecution of each of the corresponding applications were also cited in the International Phase of the underlying PCT application PCT/CA04/00016, and have been made of record in the instant case in the Information Disclosure Statement submitted July 13, 2005. The Examiner can review these references to confirm that the present claims are patentable.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date

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